

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 3 and 11 without prejudice or admission and amend claims 1 and 7 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint, comprising:

a transparent upper base plate having a contact surface that is touched during use by a fingertip of a person;

a light source for irradiating the contact surface with light such that a portion of the light is reflected when the fingertip touches the contact surface;

an equal magnification lens for forming an image of the person's fingerprint based on the reflected light with equal magnification;

an image sensor having an image pickup surface comprised of a plurality of photoreceptors linearly disposed thereon for detecting the image of the fingerprint, the photoreceptors being arranged in rows, and a length of the respective rows being more than ten times larger than a length of columns of the photoreceptors;

a lower base plate for holding the image sensor in a fixed position relative to the equal magnification lens; and

a housing for holding the transparent base plate, the light source, the equal magnification lens, and the upper and lower base plates.

2. (previously presented) An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1; wherein the angle of reflection of the reflected light with respect to the fingertip is larger than or approximately equal to the angle of incidence of the light emitted by the light source onto the contact surface.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1; wherein the light source is composed of LEDs of two or more colors.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1; wherein the image sensor is formed of amorphous silicon.

6. (previously presented) An apparatus for implementing readout of a fingerprint according to claim 1; wherein the angle of incidence of the light irradiated by the light source onto the contact surface is smaller than or approximately equal to the angle of reflection of the reflected light.

7. (currently amended) A fingerprint detector comprising: a housing; a transparent plate disposed in the housing and having a contact surface; a light source disposed in the housing for irradiating the transparent plate with light such that a portion of the light is reflected when a fingertip touches the contact surface of the transparent plate; an image sensor disposed in the housing to receive the reflected light and having a plurality of linearly-arranged photosensors arranged in a plurality of rows, a length of the respective rows being more than ten times larger than a length of columns of the photosensors; and a lower base plate disposed in the housing for holding the image sensor.

8. (previously presented) A fingerprint detector according to claim 7; further comprising a lens for forming an image of the fingerprint based on the reflected light.

9. (previously presented) A fingerprint detector according to claim 8; wherein the lens has an equal magnification.

10. (previously presented) A fingerprint detector according to claim 7; wherein the angle of reflection of the reflected light is equal to or larger than the angle of incidence of the light emitted by the light source onto the transparent plate.

11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented) A fingerprint detector according to claim 7; wherein the light source is comprised of LEDs of two colors or more.

13. (previously presented) A fingerprint detector according to claim 7; wherein the image pickup device is formed of amorphous silicon.

14. (previously presented) A fingerprint detector according to claim 7; wherein the angle of incidence of the light irradiated by the light source onto the transparent plate is equal to or smaller than the angle of reflection of the reflected light.